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HORNE ANNOUNCES POSITIVE RESULTS FROM TUTORING PROGRAM

91 percent of those tutored moved up at least one performance level

PHOENIX (August 16, 2005) – State schools chief Tom Horne has released results of the statewide tutoring program set up in early 2005 to assist high school student who desired tutoring to help them pass all or part of the AIMS test: 91 percent moved up at least one performance level (e.g., from Falls Far Below standards to Approaches standards or Approaches standards to Meets standards) in at least one subject area in 2005.

“These statistics are extremely positive,” Horne noted. “They prove that motivated students who wish to excel academically can do so if they put in the time and effort. They also prove that tutoring provides spectacular success in increasing test scores. The challenge now is to persuade more students to avail themselves of tutoring. As students are persuaded that we will stay the course in requiring passing the AIMS test to graduate, I believe many more will participate.”

A total of 6000 students took part in the tutoring program. Of the English Language Learner students, 88 percent moved up at least one performance level.

Broken down by subject area, a total of 62 percent of all tutored students passed the math portion of AIMS, 50 percent passed the reading section, and 47 percent passed the writing portion.

“By any measure, the tutoring program is a success,” Horne added. This is a clear demonstration that providing challenging academic standards and giving them a meaningful test to measure their learning abilities gives children the opportunity to fulfill their potential.”

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Note to Editors: A copy of the report is attached.